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*Memoirs of Li Hung Chang.* Edited by WILLIAM FRANCIS MANNIX, with an introduction by Hon. John W. Foster. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913. Pp. xxvii, 298.)

A volume which will not only greatly interest the general reader but will be of value to the special student is the recently published *Memoirs of Li Hung Chang*, edited by Mr. William Francis Mannix, of Shanghai, with an introduction by former Secretary of State John W. Foster. It goes without saying that the greatest Chinese statesman and diplomat of the last generation could shed a flood of light upon the history of that country since it came into intimate relations with the western powers. And from what we knew of Li's incisive comments and keen sense of humor it was to be expected that his occasional notes would always repay the reader.

The present volume, however, is only a selection from the vast store of manuscripts left by the late viceroy. We are told that these documents were gathered together from "half a score of Chinese cities," and for the past two years an English and two Chinese scholars have been engaged in translating them. The entire writings amount to about 1,600,000 English words. The present volume contains approximately 90,000 words, including the editor's comments. If the unpublished portion of the manuscripts maintains the high interest and value of that now issued, the *Memoirs* will be of surpassing value. The satisfaction of reading the present selections is only marred by an eagerness to read the balance, which it is to be hoped will soon be forthcoming.

The selections are arranged topically, and although they cover a wide range of subjects, yet the choice has been made to meet the interest of western readers. The largest group of extracts deals with the viceroy's tour of the world in 1896. His shrewd comments on persons and conditions in Europe and America offer perhaps the most entertaining pages of the *Memoirs*. If the American newspaperman considered Li an unfailing source of "copy," he, in turn, enjoyed them immensely. Russia he remembered in terms of the beautiful Czarina, Germany in terms of Bismarck and Krupp, Gladstone represented England, and apparently President Cleveland and Governor Hastings, of Pennsylvania, embodied America. Another group deals with the Boxer rising. The reforms of 1898 was received with doubtings and the coup d'état which followed is described in a single sentence: "She is once more again in name—as she has ever been in fact—the ruler;" then came the removal of Li to Canton so that the conspirators could have free rein in Peking; and there

the old statesman learned, in anguish, of the wild doings in the capital. Unable to prevent the Boxer madness he was called upon later to save the throne from the vengeance of the allies. At first he determined not to proceed north, but a second imperious summons brought him to the aid of the Old Buddha. During the long negotiations with the powers he frequently recognized the strong aid of the United States.

There is much of interest, also, in the chapters devoted to his views on Christianity, his relations with General Gordon, the Japanese war, and the opium traffic. The translators have certainly rendered the Chinese into very expressive English. So expressive, in fact, that Chinese scholars at first were in doubt as to the authenticity of the work. The *Memoirs* offer a splendid choice of quotations, but space is lacking. For the light which they shed on the character of this premier representative of China, and on his services to the throne, the *Memoirs* deserve marked consideration.

PAYSON J. TREAT.

*The Britannic Question.* By RICHARD JEBB. (London: Longmans Green and Company, 1913. Pp. ix, 262.)

Mr. Jebb has already established his reputation as one of the ablest advocates of the principle of colonial nationalism. His views represent an interesting combination of the political dogmas of liberalism with the economic tenets of tariff reform. He presents his political philosophy with singular ability and force, but like many a political prophet, is rather intolerant of all conflicting faiths. Old colonial reformers would indeed be surprised to learn that the principles of religious freedom and colonial autonomy for which they so long struggled, were essentially the product of environmental conditions; and many broad-minded young Conservative imperialists of today will be even more surprised to find their political principles described as lacking in democratic sympathy and as based upon the need for the creation of a central authority, equipped with power not only to repel aggression, but also "to repress interstate disturbances or any attempt at secession." Such a mode of presentation may be admirable as an impressionist picture of politics, but it is scarcely worthy of a philosophic study.

The author's analysis of the alternative policies of federation and alliance is a much more critical and constructive piece of work. His argument is particularly effective in bringing out the intimate relation of commercial and foreign politics, but in dealing with the fiscal aspect of